

Topic: Federalism

Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

- A) *Feature of Indian Federalism similar to Belgiu Model:* In India as well as Belgium, is a constitutional scheme of division of powers between the central and regional governments
- B) *Feature of Indian Federalism different from Begium model:* In India there is a distribution of powers between the state and the central governments, while as in Belgium there is a distribution of powers between the three governments i.e. Central government, Regional government and Community government.
- C) *Standardisation :* The Sinhala government followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
- D) *Religious bias :* A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Budhism.
- E) *Land alienation:* The land in north and eastern part of the country, which was considered as Tamil Homeland, was distributed among the landless Sinhala population
- F) *Problems of power sharing and devolution:* The Sinhalese mainstream political parties and Sinhala Buddhist lobby vehemently opposed the equal representation of Tamils in the decision making bodies. All these factors went a long way to make the conflict more intense. It ultimately resulted in the demand of Tamils for a separate homeland in north and eastern part in the form of Tamil Elam.

1. What is the main difference between a Federal form of government and a Unitary one?

- a. *Federal form of government:* In a federal form of government, the constitution provides for the division of powers between the central government and the government of units.

Example: Indian constitution provides for the division of powers between the Union government and State governments.

Unitary form of government: In a unitary form of government there is concentration of all powers of governance in a National government. So, only a single government governs the country.

Example: In SriLanka, the National Government exercises all the powers of governance.

2. *State any two differences between the local government before and after the constitutional Amendment in 1992.* A) Local government in India before the constitutional Amendment of 1992 :

- a. Elections of these local governments were not held regularly.
- b. Local governments did not have any powers and resources of their own.

B. Local Government in India after the constitutional Amendment of 1992 :

- c. It is now constitutionally compulsory to hold regular elections to local government bodies, i.e Panchayats and municipalities.

Now, the state governments are required to share some revenue and powers with local government bodies.